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Atty Dkt. No.: PALO-001
USSN: 10/661,368

REMARKS

In view of the following remarks, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejections and allow Claims 3-9, 12-17, 19-20, 22-23, 25, 27-29, 32-33, 37-62, 64-73, 75, and 77-79; the only claims pending and under examination.

FORMAL MATTERS

Claim 9 has been rewritten in independent format by including the subject matter of Claim 1. Claim 9 has been further amended to incorporate the patentable subject matter of dependent Claims 12-17, 19, 20, 22, 23, 25, and 27-29.

Claims 3-5, 32, 37 and 39-40 have been amended to depend from Claim 9.

Claims 45 and 46 have been amended to incorporate the subject matter of Claim 9.

Claim 53-62 have been allowed.

Claim 64 has been amended to incorporate the patentable subject matter of dependent Claims 65-73, 75 and 77-79.

Claims 13-17, 55-57 and 65-69 have been amended to correct minor typographical errors.

Claims 1-2, 10-11, 18, 21, 24, 26, 30-31, 34-36, 63, 74, 76 and 80 have been canceled.

As no new matter has been added by the above amendments, the Examiner is respectfully requested to enter the above amendments.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicants note with gratitude the Examiner's indication that Claims 53-62 are allowable and that dependent Claims 12-17, 19, 20, 22, 23, 25, 27-29, 65-73, 75, and 77-79 contain patentable subject matter.

In view of the above amendments, the Applicants submit that the application is in condition for allowance.

Atty Dkt. No.: PALO-001
USSN: 10/661,368

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 USC § 103(a)

Claims 1-11, 18, 21, 24, 26, 30-33, 37-39, 45-47, 52, 63, 64, 74, 76 and 80 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over King et al. (2004/0210261).

Without acquiescing to the correctness of the grounds of the rejections, Claims 1-2, 10-11, 18, 21, 24, 26, 30-31, 63, 74, 76 and 80 are canceled, thereby rendering these rejections moot.

With respect to Claim 9, the Applicants note that Claims 12-17, 19, 20, 22, 23, 25, 27-29 are not included in this rejection. Without any intention to acquiesce to the correctness of this rejection, Claim 9 has been amended to recite the subject matter of Claims 12-17, 19, 20, 22, 23, 25, 27-29. Accordingly, the rejection of Claim 9 may be withdrawn.

With respect to Claims 3-8, 32-33, 37-39, 45-47 and 52, as discussed above, Claims 3-5, 32, 37 and 39 have been amended to depend from Claim 9. Additionally, independent Claims 45 and 46 have been amended to incorporate the subject matter of Claim 9. Therefore, Claims 3-5, 32, 37, 39, 45 and 46 and the claims dependent thereon are patentable for the same reasons discussed above.

With respect to Claim 64, the Applicants note that Claims 65-73, 75 and 77-79 are not included in this rejection. Without any intention to acquiesce to the correctness of this rejection, Claim 9 has been amended to recite the subject matter of Claims 65-73, 75 and 77-79. Accordingly, the rejection of Claim 64 may be withdrawn.

Claims 40-44 and 48-51 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over King et al. (2004/0210261) in view of Hill et al. (USPN 6628987).

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USSN: 10/661,368

As discussed above, independent Claim 40 has been amended to depend from Claim 9. Therefore, Claim 40 and dependent Claims 41-44 are patentable for the same reasons discussed above.

As discussed above, independent Claim 46 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of Claim 9. As such, dependent Claims 48-51 directly or indirectly depend from Claim 9. Therefore, Claims 48-51 are patentable for the same reasons discussed above.

Atty Dkt. No.: PALO-001
USSN: 10/661,368

CONCLUSION

The Applicants submit that all of the claims are in condition for allowance, which action is requested. If the Examiner finds that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any underpayment of fees associated with this communication, including any necessary fees for extensions of time, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0815, order number PALO-001.

Respectfully submitted,
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